

[22 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Madam. Import of milk as classified under Exim code heading 04.01 has been free since 1995.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to part 'a', the questions do not arise?

Drought in Rajasthan

122. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan is facing a severe drought for the third successive year of an intensity that is much more severe than in the past;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of thirty two districts severe drought conditions are prevailing in thirty one districts;

(c) if so, what is the extent of loss of lives and properties caused as a result thereof and the amount of relief provided to the state during the last three years; and

(d) what is the strategy drawn to combat the drought in the state in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There has been deficiency of rainfall leading to drought-like situation during 1998-99; 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

(b) and (c) As reported by the state Government during 2000-01, drought situation is prevailing in 30583 villages in 31 out of 32 districts, affecting a population of 3.30 crore, cattle population of 4

crore and cropped area of 89.47 lakh ha. Details of assistance released to the State during 1998-99 to 2000-01 is indicated below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Central share of CRF released	Release of assistance from NFCR/NCCF
1998-99	148.92	21.98 (NFCR)
1999-2000	155.25	102.93 (NFCR)
2000-01	196.00	85.00 (NCCF)

CRF—Calamity Relief Fund

NFCR—National Fund for Calamity Relief

NCCF—National Calamity Contingency Fund

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake necessary long term measures in the wake of national calamities.

Production of pulses and oilseeds

123. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds to ensure their availability, in the domestic markets at reasonable prices;

(b) whether Government propose to fix minimum support price to motivate farmers for their cultivation in larger areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Government of India is making all efforts to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country. For increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) are under implementation in 27 States U.Ts and 25 States respectively. The schemes envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of seeds, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm